

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



SUSAN HUTSON
POLICE MONITOR

For Immediate Release:
March 12, 2013

For Further Information:
Susan Hutson, Police Monitor
504-681-3223

[Police Monitor releases report on Stop & Frisk policies]

The New Orleans Independent Police Monitor today released a report titled “Review of the New Orleans Police Department’s Field Interview Policies, Practices, and Data”.

The OIPM originally intended to determine if the NOPD’s stop and frisk practices comported with legal standards. However, an OIG review, requested by the OIPM, determined that NOPD’s data on stop and frisk was flawed and could not be statistically analyzed. Therefore, the OIPM report focuses on NOPD policy and training around stop and frisk. OIPM’s ultimate conclusion was that NOPD should reform its policy and training to comply with state and federal law.

When implemented effectively, the police practice of stop and frisk can be an important law enforcement tool for investigating suspicious, potentially criminal, activity. But the practice is also vulnerable to abuse, often raising concerns of constitutional violations. “This report is important for the people of New Orleans because citizens complain of profiling and unfair targeting regularly,” says Police Monitor Hutson. “This report contains recommendations on how NOPD can protect citizens from profiling and protect itself from allegations of profiling. If NOPD implements our recommendations, it will help to heal the police/community divide on this issue.”

The IPM is an independent oversight agency for the New Orleans Police Department. The IPM’s Mission is to improve police services, citizen trust in NOPD, and officer safety and working conditions.

###